

## **BMP-25**

### **BMP: UTILITY STREAM CROSSING**

#### **Definition**

A strategy for crossing small waterways when in-stream utility construction is involved.

#### **Purposes**

1. To help protect sediment from entering the stream from construction within approach areas.
2. To minimize the amount of disturbance within the stream itself

#### **Conditions Where Practice Applies**

Generally applicable to flowing streams with drainage areas less than 260 hectares (1 square mile). Structures or methodology for crossing streams with larger drainage areas should be designed by methods which more accurately define the actual hydrologic and hydraulic parameters which will affect the functioning of the structure.

#### **Planning Considerations**

Utility construction, by virtue of its sprawling, linear nature, frequently crosses and impacts live streams. There is a potential for excessive sediment loss into a stream by both the disturbance of the approach areas and by the work with the stream-bed and banks.

It is often a difficult task to decide what type of control to use as a utility stream crossing. A method such as the "boring and jacking" of pipe below a streambed, which would prevent disturbance within the watercourse, is a preferred method if it is practical. However, in cases where in-stream work is unavoidable, consideration must be given to providing adequate mitigation of sediment loss while minimizing the amount of encroachment and time spent working in the channel. There is some "give and take" as far as the installation of controls - sometimes there is less damage to the environment created by providing substantial controls for the approach areas and refraining from installing extensive

measures in the stream itself. However, when the installation of the utility line within streambed and banks will take an extended period of construction time, consideration should be given to substantial in-stream controls or stream diversion in order to prevent excessive sedimentation damage.

As a result of the difficulty in choosing the right method for a utility stream crossing, designers and plan reviewers should always make site visits of proposed crossing to ensure that the most appropriate method is chosen. The designer and plan reviewer should also be aware that such modifications are subject to other state and federal construction permits.

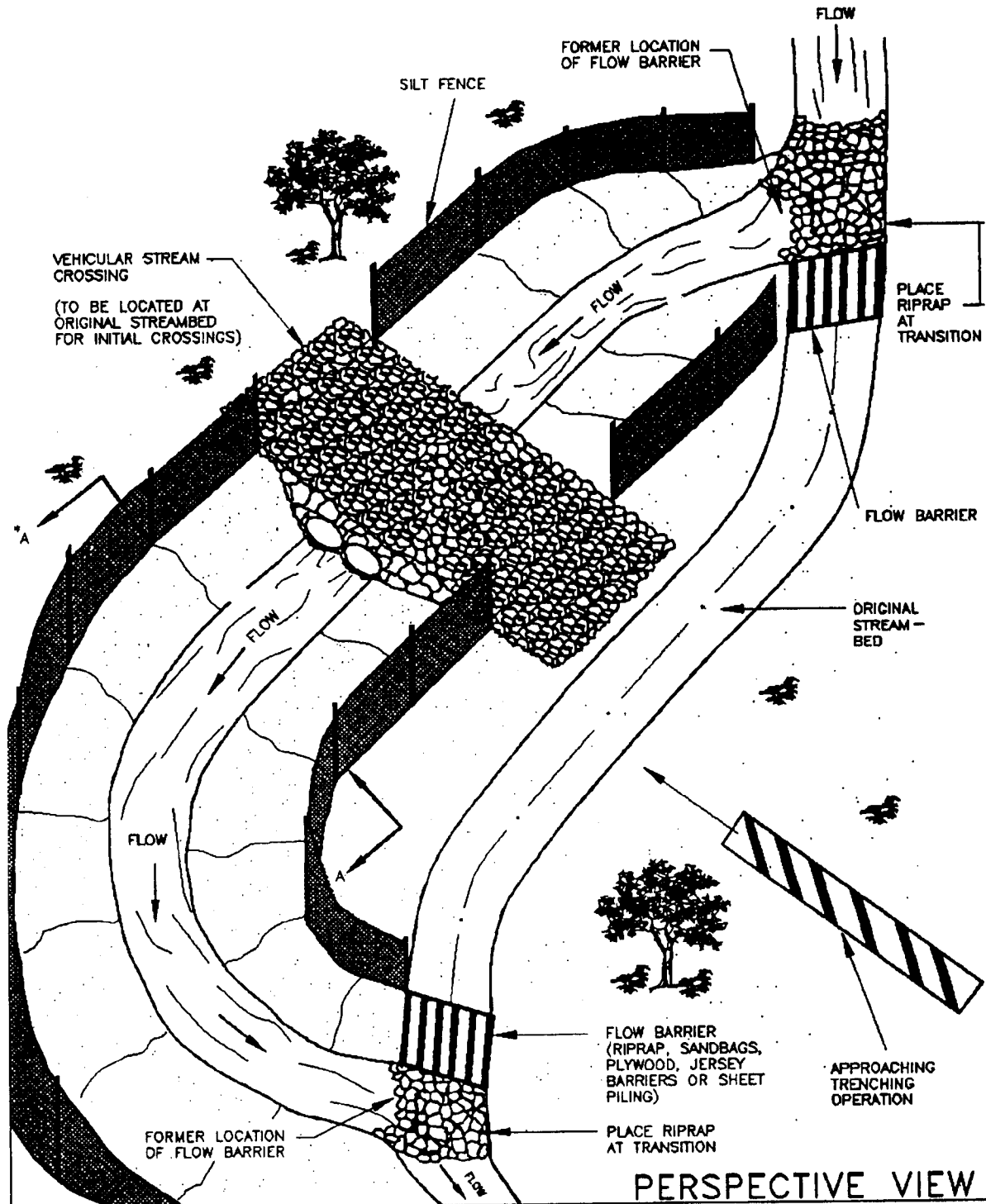
The following are several methods for dealing with utility stream crossings (with varying construction time and stream size scenarios) which allow for "work in the dry" to prevent excessive sedimentation damage. By no means are these methods all inclusive. As with other control measures, site-specific design and innovative variations are encouraged.

#### Design Criteria (All methods)

1. The drainage area should be no greater than 260 hectares (640 acres).
2. All filter cloth used in the construction of the utility crossing must conform to physical requirements noted in BMP-19, RIPRAP.
3. Water diverting structures should be used at all trenching and/or construction road approaches 15 meters (50 feet) on either side of the crossing) as per BMP-24, VEHICULAR STREAM CROSSING.
4. Design criteria more specific to each particular crossing can be found in Figure 25-1 through 25-4.

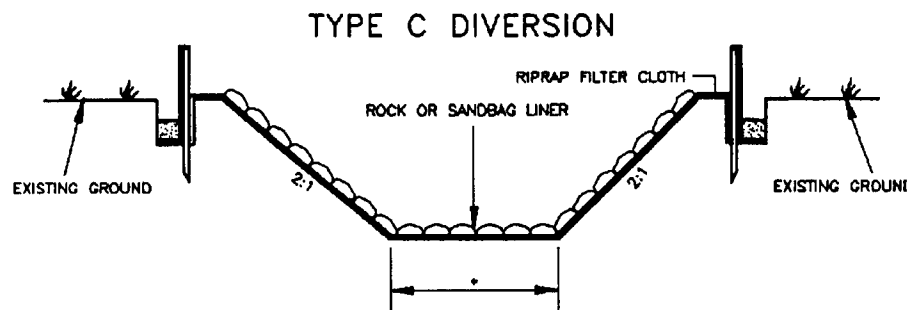
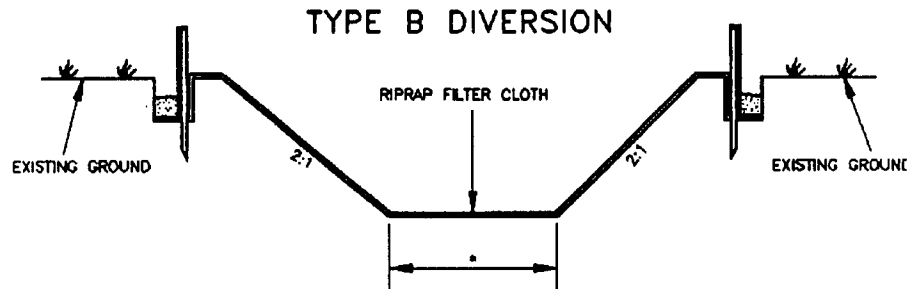
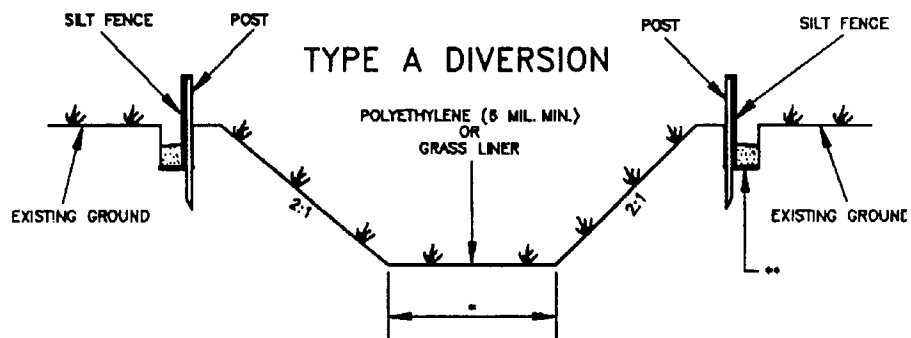
**FIGURE 25-1: DIVERSION CHANNEL CROSSING**

See Figure 25-2  
For Cross-Section A-A



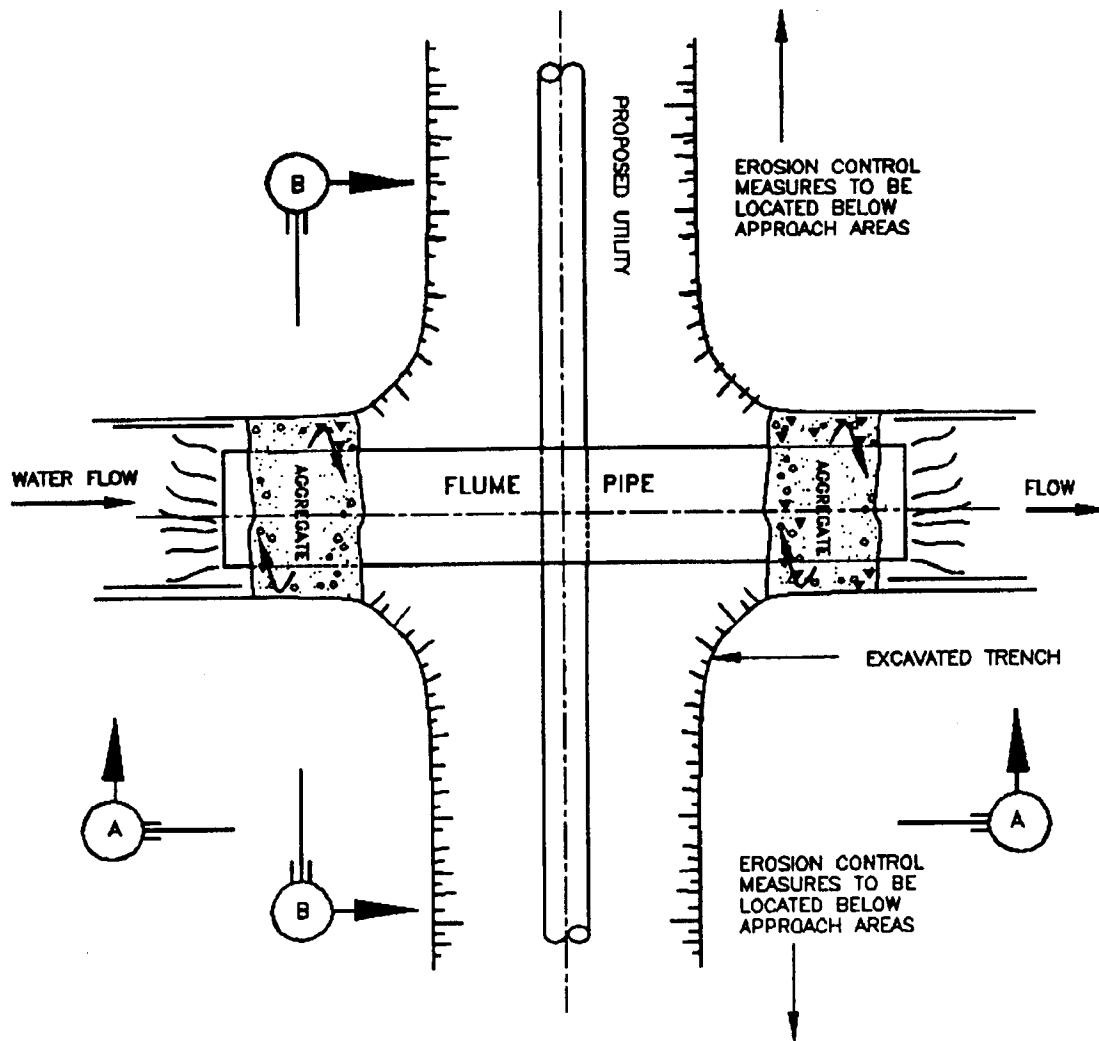
## FIGURE 25-2: DIVERSION CHANNEL CROSSING

ACCEPTABLE LININGS  
(CROSS SECTION A-A OF FIGURE 25-1)

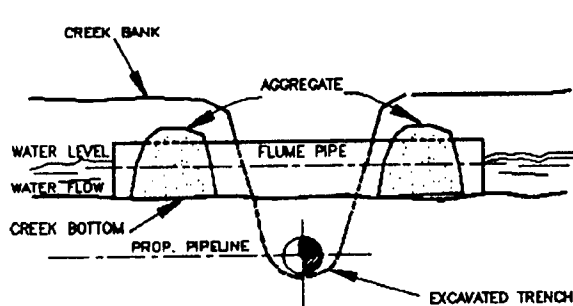


\* 2m (6') MIN. OR WIDTH OF EXISTING STREAM WHICHEVER IS LESS  
\*\* ENTRENCH SILT FENCE AND FILTER CLOTH IN SAME TRENCH

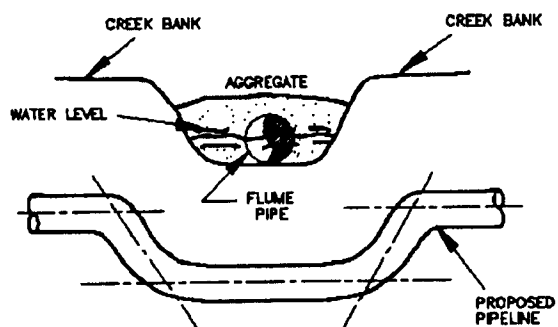
**FIGURE 25-3: FLUME PIPE CROSSING**



PLAN VIEW

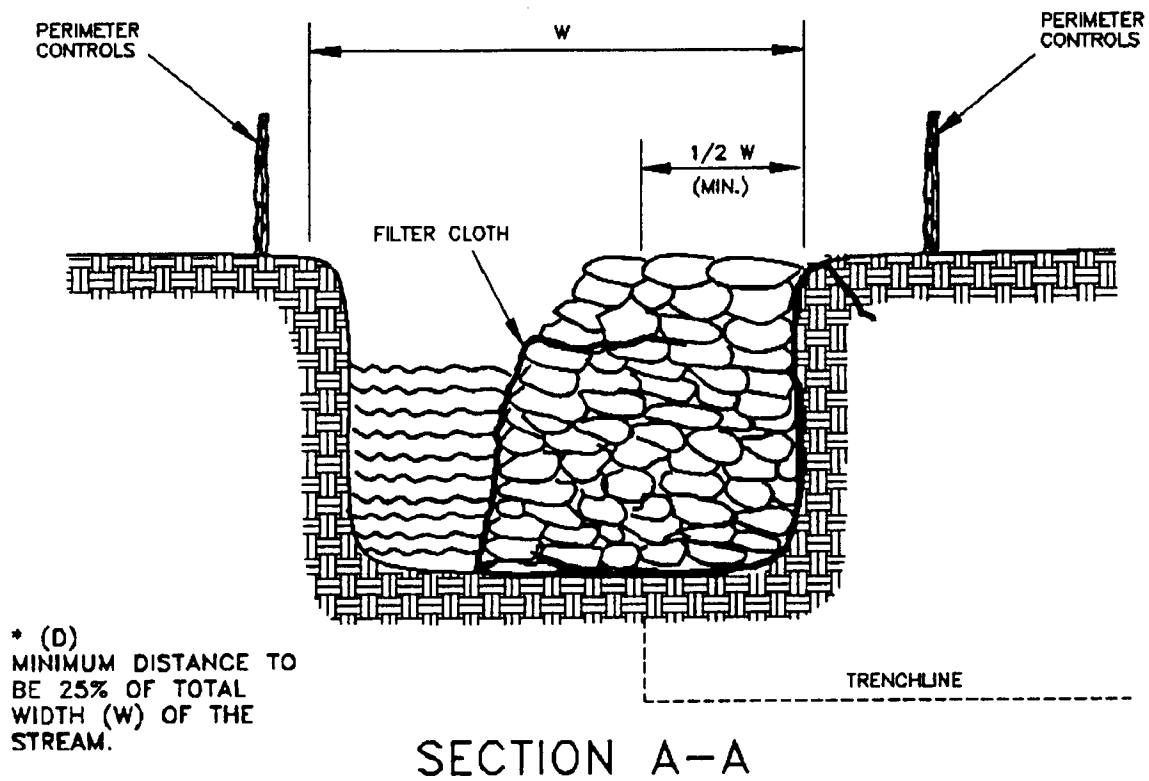
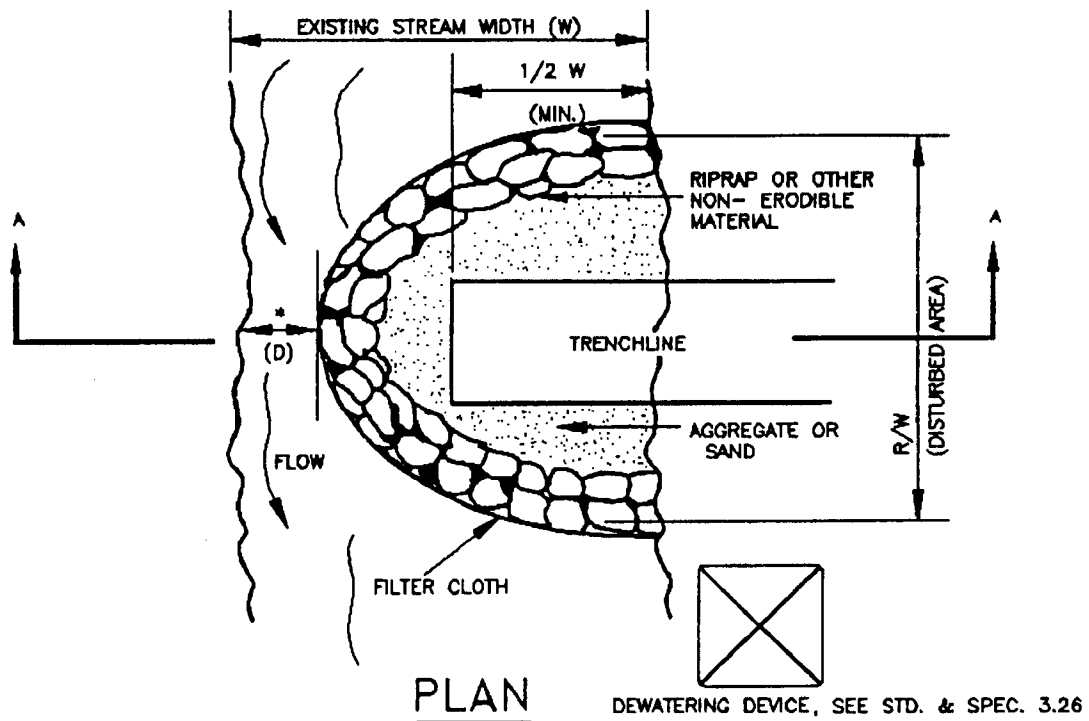


SECTION "A-A"



SECTION "B-B"

FIGURE 25-4: COFFERDAM CROSSING



## Construction Specifications

1. Diversion Channel Crossing - Preferred method if construction will remain in area of stream for an extended period (longer than 72 hours) and site conditions (such as width of stream) make diversion practical.
  - a. The diversion channel crossing must be operational before work is done in the stream (construction will be performed "in the dry").
  - b. Minimum width of bottom shall be 2 meters (6 feet) or equal to bottom width of existing streambed, whichever is less. Refer to Figures 25-1 and 25-2.
  - c. Maximum steepness of side slopes shall be 2:1. Depth and grade may be variable, dependent on site conditions, but shall be sufficient to ensure continuous flow of water in the diversion.
  - d. There are three types of diversion channel linings which can be used, based upon expected velocity of bankfull flow. Refer to Figure 25-2 and the following table:

**TABLE 25-1: DIVERSION CHANNEL LININGS**

<u>Lining Material</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Acceptable Velocity Range</u>
Filter Cloth*, Polyethylene or Grass	TYPE A	0 - 0.6 m.p.s. (0 - 2.5 f.p.s.)
Filter Cloth*	TYPE B	0.75 -2.75 m.p.s. (2.5 - 9.0 f.p.s.)
Riprap and Filter Cloth*	TYPE C	2.75 - 4.0 m.p.s. (9.0 - 13.0 f.p.s.)

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\* Filter Cloth must meet the minimum physical requirements noted in BMP 19, RIPRAP.

- e. Type A stream diversions may be seeded with a standard seed mix for the type of soils encountered and the time of year seed is sown. An average growth of 50 millimeters (2 inches) in height shall be achieved throughout the diversion with an 85% cover before water is turned through it.
- f. Stream diversion liners shall be secured at the upstream and downstream sides with non-erodible weights such as riprap. These weights shall allow normal flow of the stream. Soil shall not be mixed in with stream diversion weights. Weights may also be needed along the stream diversion's length to secure liner.
- g. Stream diversion liners should be overlapped when a continuous liner is not available or is impractical. Overlaps should be such that continuous flow of the stream is maintained. An upstream section should overlap a downstream section by a minimum of 500 millimeters (18 inches). Overlaps along the cross-section should be made such that a liner is placed in the stream diversion bottom first and additional pieces of liner on the slopes overlap the bottom piece by a minimum of 500 millimeters (18 inches).
- h. Stream diversion liners shall be entrenched at the top of the diversion slopes (slopes breaks) along with a line of silt fence. Silt fence may be excluded if the diversion liner is extended to such a point that siltation of the stream will not occur. If silt fence is excluded, the diversion liner must be secured. Liners shall extend from slope break to slope break as shown in Figure 25-2.
- i. Staples used in securing SOIL STABILIZATION BLANKETS AND MATING (see BMP-36) or non-erodible weights (riprap) shall be used as necessary to anchor stream diversion liners to the side slopes of the diversion. Wooden stakes should not be used on the diversion's bottom or side slopes.
- j. Non-erodible materials such as riprap, jersey barriers, sandbags, plywood, or sheet piling, shall be used as flow barriers to divert the stream away from its original channel and to prevent or reduce water backup into a construction area.
- k. The downstream flow barrier is to be removed prior to the upstream barrier when opening a stream diversion for the transport of water.



- l. Streams should be rediverted upon completion of the utility crossing for which the diversion was built. Prior to rediversion, any materials (flow barrier) used to prevent water backup into the downstream end of the original streambed shall be removed. This material should not be placed in the downstream end of the diversion until after water has been rediverted to the original waterway. The stream should then be rediverted by removing all of the materials damming the upstream end of the original streambed and then placing it in the upstream end of the stream diversion. The diversion should be sealed off at the downstream end and then backfilled.

Once started, any work to relocate a stream shall not be discontinued until it is completed.

- m. Stream should be rediverted only after backfilling and restabilization of original streambed and banks is completed. Restabilization shall consist of the installation of ungrouted riprap on all disturbed streambank areas (or on the area 2 meters on both sides of the centerline of its utility trench, whichever is greater) with slopes of 3:1 or greater. Refer to BMP-19, RIPRAP, for installation requirements. For slopes of 3:1 or less, vegetative stabilization may be used, pending approval by the Plan-Approving Authority or inspection authority. Stabilization of its streambed and banks and the approach areas should occur immediately following the attainment of final grade.
- n. Any dewatering discharge from this operation shall be placed into an approved DEWATERING STRUCTURE (see BMP-26).

2. Flume Pipe Crossing - To be used when in-stream construction will last less than 72 hours and stream is narrow, less than 3 meters (10 feet) wide, making "cofferdam" construction impractical.

- a. The flume pipe crossing must be made operational prior to the start of construction in the stream.
- b. The materials used (culvert(s), stone and filter fabric) must meet the physical constraints of those used in VEHICULAR STREAM CROSSING, BMP-24.
- c. A large flume pipe (or culvert) of an adequate size to support normal water channel flow (see Table 24-1) shall then be installed in the stream bed across the proposed pipeline trench centerline. Coarse aggregate (minimum size) or riprap shall be placed close to each end

of the flume pipe so as to dam off the creek forcing the water to flow through the flume pipe (see Figure 25-3).

- d. The entrapped water can then be pumped from the creek within the dammed off area and in the proposed trench centerline into an approved DEWATERING STRUCTURE (see BMP-26). The trench can then be dug under the flume pipe. The pipe sections will then be installed to the proper depth under the flume pipe. After pipe sections are installed, the ditch will be backfilled and restabilization shall be carried out.
  - e. Restabilization shall consist of the installation of ungrouted riprap on all disturbed streambank areas (or on the area 3 meters on both sides of the centerline of the utility trench, whichever is greater) with slopes of 3:1 or greater. Refer to BMP-19, RIPRAP, for installation requirements. For slopes of 3:1 or less, vegetative stabilization may be used, pending approval by the Plan-Approving Authority or inspection authority. Stabilization of its streambed and banks and the approach areas should occur immediately following the attainment of final grade.
  - f. After completion of backfilling operation and restoration of stream/creek banks and leveling of stream bed, the flume pipe can then be removed. The gravel can be removed or spread in the stream bed depending on permit requirements. Sediment control in approach areas shall not be removed until all construction is completed in stream/creek crossing area. All ground contours shall be returned to their original condition.
3. Cofferdam Utility Crossing - To be used when stream diversion is not practical and stream is wide enough (3 meters or wider) to make cofferdam installation practical.
- a. Construction is to be performed in low flow periods.
  - b. Crossing shall be accomplished in a manner that will not prohibit the flow of the stream. (See Figure 25-4).
  - c. As with all utility line crossings, approach areas must be controlled with perimeter measures such as silt fence or straw bales.
  - d. Remove large rocks, woody vegetation, or other material from the streambed and banks that may get in the way of placing the riprap, sandbags, sheet metal, or wood planks or installing the utility pipe or line.

- e. Form a cofferdam by placing the riprap (or other non-erodible materials) in a semicircle along the side of the stream in which the utility installation will begin. It must be surrounded and underlain with filter cloth as shown in Figure 25-4. The height of and area within the dam will depend upon the size of the work area and the amount of stream flow. Stack materials as high as will be necessary to keep water from overtopping the dam and flooding the work area. When the stream flow is successfully diverted by the cofferdam, dewater the work area and stabilize it with aggregate or sand. Make sure to discharge the water into a sediment trapping device (see DEWATERING STRUCTURE, BMP-26).
- g. Install the utility pipe or line in half the streambed as noted in Figure 25-4. Remove the riprap or other materials and begin placing them on the other side of the stream.
- h. Restabilization shall consist of the installation of ungrouted riprap on all disturbed streambank areas (or on the area 6 feet on both sides of the centerline of its utility trench, whichever is greater) with slopes of 3:1 or greater. Refer to BMP-19, RIPRAP, for installation requirements. For slopes of 3:1 or less, vegetative stabilization may be used, pending approval by Plan-Approving Authority or inspection authority. Stabilization of its streambed and banks and the approach areas should occur immediately following the attainment of final grade.

### Maintenance

Care must be taken to inspect any stream crossing area at the end of each day to make sure that the construction materials are positioned securely. This will ensure that the work area stays dry and that no construction materials float downstream.